

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

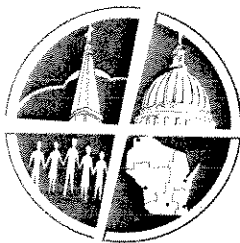
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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt192

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703 • 608/257-0004 • FAX 608/257-0376

TO: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: John Muebscher, Executive Director
DATE: April 16, 1997
RE: Budget Issues of Interest to the WCC

In reviewing the Governor's Budget Recommendations, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference wishes to express support for a number of initiatives included in the budget bill and express concerns and reservations about one item, **community aids**.

We also invite you to consider five issues related to the Wisconsin Works program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

WCC urges you to support the following items:

Assisted Living. WCC endorses budget provisions which expand a number of ongoing programs to enable elderly and person with disabilities to live in their own homes or in the community as opposed to nursing homes or other institutions. To the extent possible, we urge you to add funds that can further reduce waiting lists for the programs such as the Community Options Program and the Community Integration Program.

Foster Care and Adoption. WCC supports inclusion of additional funding for foster care and adoption by providing for voluntary training for foster parents of special needs children and about \$5.3 million in additional funding for payments to foster parents and parents who adopt children with special needs.

Insurance Subsidies for Persons with HIV. Another worthwhile feature of the budget is a provision extending a program to provide health insurance premium subsidies to persons with HIV. The budget increases the maximum income eligibility from 200% of poverty to 300% although those whose income exceeds 200% of poverty must pay a portion of the premium. Eligibility continues even if the person is eligible for Medicare.

Women's Health Initiative. We commend the Governor's decision to include \$6 million over the next two years to fund a women's health initiative. As women are more likely to lack health insurance than men, we believe this will address a serious health concern among women of child bearing age and give such women one less reason to choose abortion should they become pregnant.

Health Insurance Coverage for All Children in Grades K-12. We strongly support the directive to DHFS to explore the possibility of creating a program to provide health insurance to all children in grades K-12 in Wisconsin and to report recommendations by July 1, 1998. This initiative, if properly developed, will bring us one step closer to the goal of universal coverage for health insurance, a goal of the Catholic bishops of the United States since 1919.

AN AREA OF SERIOUS CONCERN - FEWER DOLLARS FOR COMMUNITY AIDS

Community aids is taking a cut from the current base for the first time in recent memory. WCC opposes this cut for several reasons.

It aggravates an imbalance between community and institutional responses to human services. While this major funding source for community programs takes a cut, the budget actually increases MA reimbursement rates for institutional providers. While exact parity may not be possible, we believe the effectiveness of community based services warrants more equal treatment than the budget provides for.

Services for populations with disabilities will be especially impacted. While community aids funds a broad range of programs at the county and local level, not all operate on the same legal or political footing. Certain services, such as child abuse and neglect services and some mental health programs are often provided pursuant to court orders. These will be a priority for counties regardless of funding levels. Other programs, such as domestic abuse shelters, runaway services and services for persons with disabilities are likely to be more under funded if community aids funding is not kept even with inflation.

The budget replaces \$31 million in GPR support for community aids with federal TANF (welfare) block grant dollars. This places the financial base for community aids at serious risk in future years. This may seem technical but it has important long term implications for the health of the program. The budget "backs out" over \$30 million in GPR funding each year of the biennium. Hence, the state GPR support for community aids is reduced, not by 3%, but by 15%.

Furthermore, the federal funds that replace the GPR come from the federal TANF block grant. TANF is the primary source of funds for the Wisconsin Works program. While low W-2 caseloads may permit the use of TANF funds for community aids in this

biennium, a recession or other events that lead to higher W-2 caseloads will create powerful pressure to divert the TANF funds from community aids. As that happens, the legislature is likely to find it easier to cut services than add GPR to the community aids program.

For all these reasons, we urge that the legislature restore some of the GPR commitment to community aids so at the very least, the program is held at its current base level of funding.

WISCONSIN WORKS ISSUES

The WCC calls your attention to five areas in which the Wisconsin works program (W-2) should be modified to better meet the needs of our state's poor families.

Compensation for Community Service Jobs (CSJ's) and Transitional Placements (TP's). We applaud the Governor for increasing the amount of the monthly grants for CSJ's and Transitional placements. However, we urge you to redefine this compensation as wages so those persons in these slots may be eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Last year, the Fiscal Bureau projected that fully seventy five percent of those in the current AFDC program are slated to enter work slots in Community Service Jobs or Transitional Placements. These are the families most likely to be "worse off" under W-2 in its current form than under the AFDC system, in large part because these grants fail to capture all of the federal income support they could.

WCC is not among those who believe certain jobs are menial and lacking in dignity. Work has dignity because it is done by human beings. But dignity also derives from the compensation provided to the people who perform the work. ***Increasing these grants is essential to providing these families with an adequate income and to convey respect due to those who engage in work related activities.***

Expanded education and training options. Those W-2 participants and other working poor for whom higher education is the most promising short term route to self-sufficiency should be able to participate in certain higher education programs.

In their statement on welfare reform, **Reforming Welfare by Valuing Families**, the Catholic Bishops of Wisconsin called for welfare reform that discerns differences among poor people and an end to a "one size fits all" approach. While one can cite studies that show education and training does is not always effective, there are nonetheless poor and working poor persons for whom these programs offer the most cost effective approach.

We note that some legislators are pursuing a "Low Income Workers Grant Program" that would permit about 1600 people to participate in higher education programs if they had worked for at least six months and had at least three references, including one from their employer testifying that they have career promise in their chosen course of study. We believe this is the type of discerning program that will move more poor people to independence.

All families who play by the rules and meet eligibility requirements should be guaranteed access to W-2 services. There is a difference between changing the rules and saying "even if you are prepared to play by the new rules, we will not help you. On the one hand, W-2's enabling legislation specifically states that not all who are eligible are assured of services. At the same time, the Policy Document for Pilot Counties, the document developed by DWD to assist county W-2 agencies, states that "those who are eligible for and need assistance will receive assistance" (Page I-3).

If such a commitment can be made in the policy manual, it can and should be made in the law. Otherwise, families with poor children may be denied access to the necessities of life by the arbitrary decision of a local agency or because the agency has run out of money in a given fiscal year.

Basic needs of immigrants and refugees and childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50. Wisconsin should provide a state-funded program for immigrants and refugees with children as well as other childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50 who are no longer eligible for federal food stamps and SSI.

Immigrants and refugees are especially vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous individuals. They are also placed at much greater risk of hunger and exposure due to provisions in the federal welfare law that deny them benefits for programs such as food stamps, medical assistance and SSI. It is essential that efforts to repair the safety net include some provision to restore basic supports to these families.

As for other adults without children, they too are left with no safety net by the federal law changes. Two years ago, when the state abolished its general assistance program for single adults, one of the justifications for that decision was the fact that federal food stamps would still be available. In 1997, this last vestige of federal support is gone. State action is necessary to restore at least some help for such people, most of whom are women.

Restore a fair hearing requirement. In order to assure fair treatment for all, families should have access to a fair hearing process, including an appeal process, prior to being sanctioned for noncompliance with W-2 regulations. There are signs that one reason for the significant drop in caseloads has been

aggressive use of sanctions by county caseworkers. Too often, it has been determined that families were sanctioned or denied benefits in violation of existing guidelines.

Restoring a fair hearing will assure that poor families with children are not denied W-2 services for other than good reasons.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - Prison Chaplains

We request that you add \$154,800 to the budget to fund four additional chaplain positions, one each at Racine, Oshkosh, Black River Falls and the Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun. The positions at the first two institutions were included in the DOC budget request but denied by DOA. We are recommending those positions be funded as well as the positions at Black River Falls and the Dodge Corrections Institute.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) recommends that there be one chaplain for every 500 prisoners. The chaplain to prisoner ratio at Jackson and Dodge Correctional already far exceeds that. While both prisons are expanding their populations, neither has provisions for additional chaplains.

Dodge Correctional has two chaplains to serve 1,300 male inmates. However, it is scheduled to expand to 1700.

Dodge is also the infirmary for the state correction system. Hence, it receives prisoners with chronic illnesses and those who are dying. This population requires intense chaplaincy work, as patients who are physically immobile can not go to the chapel for worship or other spiritual services. These services must be brought to the infirmary, which is labor-intensive for the chaplains. Dying prisoners have intense spiritual needs, which also is very time-consuming for chaplains.

Dodge is now also an intake facility for female prisoners, making it the only prison that has to manage both male and females. The task of insuring that female prisoners are provided the same worship opportunities and spiritual care as male prisoners is also very labor intensive.

The Jackson Correctional facility, which has one chaplain for 700 prisoners, is expected to expand to nearly 1,000 prisoners. In addition to this growth, Jackson's rural location creates unique problems for its lone chaplain. The prison's rural location serves to isolate prisoners from the support and visits from family, friends and home church groups and the chaplain is expected to provide more spiritual support than at other institutions. Moreover, the area's sparse population also limits the chaplain's access to local church groups, volunteers and assistance more readily available to chaplains at other prisons.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - Educational Technology

The WCC also asks that you support the request of the Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools (WANS) pertaining to educational technology. These are essential to assuring that all school children benefit from the Universal Service Fund.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our views on these issues.



Wisconsin Counties Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: *Craig* ~~Craig~~ Simpson, Legislative Associate

DATE: April 16, 1997

SUBJECT: 1997-99 Biennial Budget

The budget proposal submitted by the Governor, for your consideration, attempts to balance the very significant needs of many different sectors of our state. As a result of previous legislative action as well as societal factors, there are two areas, however, that have demanded an inordinate amount of attention and resources in this budget proposal. These areas are of course, adult prisons and the K-12 school system. Given the current circumstances, it was not entirely surprising to see these two areas dominate this budget proposal, but it is nonetheless troublesome for counties.

As counties try to hold the line on property taxes and still provide the essential services as well as quality of life services our citizens expect, we see any growth in state resources being siphoned off into schools and prisons. It is our belief that neglecting other sectors of the state could have a long term negative impact.

The following is a list of some of the pressing issues that impact counties in the budget proposal along with WCA's requested action. These are issues that we believe need to be addressed for the sake of all the citizens of our state.

YOUTH AIDS

In the last legislative session the state and counties worked together to create the Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) program. This program was designed to provide a separate setting and programming for juveniles who commit serious offenses. The program also is designed for the state to assume responsibility for juveniles who enter the SJO program. In order to establish initial funding for this program, counties youth aids appropriation was reduced from approximately \$84 million to \$78 million - a \$ 6 million decrease. This was agreed to because counties would be giving up a portion of the population they are serving with these dollars. The experience of the SJO program this past year is that it has not been utilized to the extent that was anticipated. Because the number of juveniles entering this program was below the expected level, only about half of the allocated

100 River Place, Suite 101 ♦ Monona, Wisconsin 53716-4016

608/224-5330 ♦ 800/922-1993 ♦ Fax: 608/224-5325

Mark M. Rogacki, Executive Director
Darla M. Hium, Deputy Director

Mark D. O'Connell, Legislative Director
Lynda L. Bradstreet, Administrative Director

April 16, 1997

money was spent and the FY 98 allocation is dramatically reduced. WCA respectfully requests that a portion of the unspent funds be returned to the youth aids allocation.

Another change that took place last session was that the statutory requirement that any increase in Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI) rates be directly linked to an increase in youth aids was eliminated. The Governor's budget proposal does not include any increase in youth aids and counties are once again seeing a double digit increase in the JCI rates the state charges them. WCA respectfully requests that either the statutory language linking JCI rate increases to youth aids increases be reinstated or cost controls placed on rate increases the state can charge counties.

COUNTY SALES TAX ADMINISTRATION

Under current law, counties are authorized to adopt and impose a 0.5% sales tax on the same goods and services subject to the state sales tax. The county tax is piggybacked onto the state sales tax in that the county tax is administered, enforced and collected by the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue retains 1.5% of sales taxes it collects to cover administrative costs.

The Governor's budget requires that the fiscal-year unencumbered balance in the appropriation for administration of the county sales tax be annually lapsed to the general fund, beginning on June 30, 1998. This provision would result in an estimated lapse of \$461,600 in 1997-98 and \$461,700 in 1998-99.

Historically, the state has been subsidizing the general fund with county sales tax revenue. On June 30, 1997, over \$1.2 million of county sales tax revenue is scheduled to lapse to the general fund. During the 1995-97 budget deliberations, the Joint Finance Committee approved the Governor's budget recommendation to lapse over \$1 million in county sales tax revenue to the general fund. However, the Joint Committee on Finance also reduced the amount of county sales tax revenue retained by the Department of Revenue for administrative expenses from 1.5% to 1.3% of total collections, beginning on July 1, 1997. This provision was vetoed.

According to state statute, county sales tax revenue is to be used to provide property tax relief to the state of Wisconsin. Transferring sales tax collections to the general fund is contrary to the statutory goal of county sales tax implementation.

Each year, the state, in preparing its biennial budget, makes estimates regarding sales tax collections. Each year, sales tax collections increase. Increased collections do not necessarily mean an increase in the state's costs for county sales tax administration. Since the state is able to estimate collections, the state should also be able to estimate the

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amount necessary for administration. In early 1997, the state estimates an excess of over \$900,000 in the coming biennium.

WCA respectfully requests that 1) county sales tax dollars be returned to the county of origin; and 2) the percent of county sales tax dollars retained by the Department of Revenue for administrative purposes be lowered.

LAND USE AND LAND INFORMATION

Established in the 1989-90 Biennial Budget, the Wisconsin Land Information Program was instituted to respond to a growing need to update the land records management systems of local governments throughout the state. The Wisconsin Land Information Board was authorized to coordinate and operate the program. The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate the Board while maintaining the program under the direction of DOA. While we do not oppose the transfer of the responsibilities of the WLIB to DOA, we are concerned with the expansion of the use of county collected dollars to fund the operations of the Wisconsin Land Council. Sound land use planning and land use policies rely on quality land information, however land information is only one aspect of the broader policy arena of land use. In broadening the potential uses of the county revenues at the state level, the potential for decreases in actual dollar grants back to counties is a significant concern.

The land information program has succeeded to date in large part due to the concerted efforts at the county level to develop and maintain local systems. Over the past eight years counties have forwarded over \$12 million to the state to support the WLIB and their staff and for redistribution to local governments statewide through a competitive grant process. Many of the county programs have evolved and are now in need of steady dollars to maintain the information bases they have developed.

Given the proposed changes in the management of the land information program at the state level and the evolution of the county programs, we would request that the Committee change the ratio of dollars retained to dollars forwarded to the state so that all counties retain more dollars at the local level to implement their local programs. Specifically, the locally retained fees should increase from \$4.00 to \$5.50 of the \$6.00 fee. The remaining \$.50 would be forwarded to the state on a biannual basis (currently it is forwarded on a monthly basis). The \$.50 received by the state would be used for "grants" or simply for redistribution to those counties that do not achieve a set minimum budget through their locally retained fees.

W-2

Counties are currently in the process of gearing up for full implementation of the W-2 program. While counties have been hugely successful in helping people on public

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assistance find jobs during this period, the changes that are occurring are requiring tremendous time and resource investments from the counties. It is nearly impossible at this time to determine whether the W-2 allocations offered to counties during the RFP process will be sufficient to administer the program, however, these are the numbers counties agreed to and will honor that agreement. WCA respectfully requests that the Joint Committee on Finance also honors the agreement and at least maintains the W-2 allocation at the current level proposed.

COMMUNITY AIDS

Counties utilize community aids funding from the state and federal government to serve the most vulnerable people in our state. The demand for services from counties continues to grow at a pace the far exceeds inflation. Counties have done everything possible to serve these individuals despite dwindling resources from the state. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau in 1995 counties provided \$165 million statewide in county funds over and above the 9.89% required match for community aids. Despite this tremendous amount of overmatch dollars, waiting lists around the state still exist. Last biennium not only did counties not receive an inflationary increase in community aids they saw a net *reduction*. Now under the budget proposal counties are facing another net *reduction* in community aids funding. What is more disturbing is that the state is utilizing over \$31 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars to fund community aids and there is still a net reduction in overall dollars. WCA respectfully requests that the GPR appropriated to community aids remain at the current level and the TANF funds be allocated in addition to those funds to provide counties an increase in community aids.

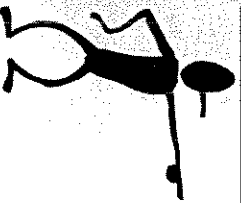
We look forward to working with the legislature to implement these proposals for the benefit of all of Wisconsin's citizens.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Interest A and Interest B

Both Teams are responsible to work together to reach an important goal.
But along the way, each team runs into barriers.

Interest A



Barriers

Interest B



Who will lead the group?
Who will fund the group?
Who will regulate and measure the progress of the group?

The troubles these teams are facing are in many ways similar to the troubles that could be encountered if School to work is moved to the Department of Workforce Development. Why?

- School To Work must work with other departments in schools to prepare a program that compliments each department, instead of contrasting them.
- The most efficient way for this to happen is for consultants from the Department of Workforce Development work closely with consultants from the Department of Public Instruction.

Why should School to Work be separated from the Department of Public Instruction if it is imperative that this department works with other departments still residing at DPI?

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Students for a Better Education

Hello, my name is Tara Potter, and I am a student at Madison East High School. I have recently completed my term as State President of HOSA, and I am here today to express how greatly Vocational Student Organizations (VSO), and other School to Work (STW) programs have influenced my life and changed it for the better. My main concern is that by disconnecting the STW programs from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and consolidating the STW programs with the Division for Connecting Education and Work within the Department of Workforce Development, it will eliminate many leadership opportunities within our schools by decreasing, and possibly eliminating funding for our programs.

I feel very fortunate that I was given the opportunity to participate in many of the programs offered at my school; such as VSO's (particularly HOSA & HERO), the co-op program, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training not only because of everything I learned about myself and my future, but also because of the leadership skills and the confidence that I gained.

A valuable turning point in my life occurred during my junior year of high school when I got involved in HOSA. Through this organization I have learned leadership skills that will last a lifetime. As State President, in summation, I was in charge of running meetings, organizing events, and preparing seminars to increase community awareness, using my creative talents. I think that it is very important to offer variety in schools such as this to expand peoples perspectives on what opportunities are available to them once they graduate from high school. I also have experience competing at both the state and national levels in HOSA. This year I was awarded second place in clinical medical assisting at our state competition, therefore, I will have the opportunity to go on to

national competition in Anaheim, CA this June. Without the funding that we receive from the DPI, this would not be possible for many students, including myself.

Another program that I feel has been extremely beneficial is the co-op program for which I have been a part of since the beginning of my senior year. It not only provides students with well paying jobs that otherwise may have been out of their reach, but the students learn how to keep these jobs, and move up the career ladder. I have learned from my own experiences that hard work and dedication are two crucial elements in life if you plan to succeed, and this program helps you see this more clearly. This program is supervised by our advisor, and we all work together to form a closely united team between advisor, student, and employer. Through this class called HIERO, or Home Economic Related Occupations, we have many opportunities to explore our career goals. I was once told that education is preparation. This is true because what good will knowledge do if you don't know how to apply it in your life? From where I stand it can be very confusing when you are unsure of yourself and your future. I also think that it is very important for students to begin contemplating this concept at a young age so that they don't feel pressured to do things they aren't interested in, or to get frustrated, and give up. This is an inexpensive program, and I feel that it must be continued so that our posterity can prosper.

The last program that I would like to mention is the CNA training that I received during my junior year. I feel that this is one of the best STW programs available because the skills you learn will assist you in finding a well paying job, other than minimum wage, and you learn how to work well with people. I feel that communication skills, and people skills are vital to one's success in life, and I strongly feel that if students are not taught these skills at home, they need to have the opportunity to learn them in school. Without this STW program I never would have known if becoming a NA was right for me or not. I think that it is important to have opportunities to try different things in order to learn about yourself, and what you want out of life.

I believe that having success is not only planning and accomplishing one's aspirations, but it is also the confidence and assurance one attains through hard work, creative problem solving, and interacting with others in a positive manner that allows one to grow and move forward as an individual. I have grown as a person because of these valuable experiences, and I hope that the generations after me will have the same opportunities.

If the STW program merges with the Department of Workforce Development the power and financial resources will be transferred from the DPI, and there will be no guarantee to continue supporting programs such as VSO's, co-op's, and CNA training. Think of what a great tragedy this would be.



CORRECTIONS AND PRISON REFORM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW WI) is proposing a number of changes to the Adult Correctional System programs outlined as part of the Governors Budget Bill. NASW WI opposes the proposal that would allow the DOC wider latitude in sending prisoners out of the state.

While NASW WI recognizes the difficulties of prison overcrowding, no consideration is given in this bill to the civil and human rights of prisoners, their families and loved ones, and the general impact on prisoner's systematic rehabilitation.

Removing a prisoner from regional custody is a hardship, and has several potentially debilitating impacts:

1. Prisoners will have less access to positive, familial and friendship support networks and role models. This will impact a prisoners motivation and celerity in reform.
2. Prisoners have been given no choice and no compensation for this loss of access to loved ones, and neither have loved ones been compensated. No research currently exists documenting the level of hardship involved in out of state prisoner transfers, or the factors that affect a prisoners ability to cope and adapt to new prison settings.
3. This bill again shows a reduction of emphasis on rehabilitation and reform, and greater emphasis on punitive measures which are flashy, ineffective and expensive for tax payers.

NASW WI also opposes the proposal that would allow the development of chain gangs, and the use of stun belts.

1. Chain gangs do not represent a humane, let alone effective, use of prison labor. Chain gangs are not designed for efficient work movement, ease of transport, or safety. Chain gangs are the legacy of racism and human degradation. They are designed to humiliate and demoralize prison workers, and terrify and intimidate "potential offenders." Numerous studies have shown that abused inmates become more difficult to handle and rehabilitate, and that "potential offenders" pay little attention to potential outcomes.

2. Chain gangs and stun belts are reportedly cheaper because they reduce the number of guards needed to watch over inmates. There won't be such a cheap alternative when the state is sued by the family of an inmate injured or killed by a stun belt. Stun belts deliver up to 50,000 volts for eight seconds. Voltage can be reapplied repeatedly, and voltage can be administered by accident. Current records indicate that stun belt voltages have been administered unintentionally about as often as they have been administered intentionally. High voltage levels can cause heart arrhythmia, and even aortic aneurysms.

These proposals do not represent reforms. They represent draconian, punitive measures which intentionally inflict pain and humiliation on a soaring prison population. They take Wisconsin further and further from its proud and long tradition of progressive change and leadership, and will ultimately cost more money, interfere with rehabilitation, and do nothing to prevent further criminal offenses.

NASW WI therefore opposes this legislation and demands that this legislation be removed from the budget proposal.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

W-2 REFORM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers(NASW WI) is proposing a number of changes to the W-2 program as part of the state budget. The proposed changes are as follows:

1) NASW WI opposes the proposal that would mandate the reduction of a participant's grant for twelve months if the individual tested positive for drugs.

This proposal would unnecessarily punish children for the mistakes of their parents. It would also create an additional barrier for parents who try to overcome a drug problem. Instead of reducing the individual's grant, it would be more beneficial to offer the opportunity for substance abuse treatment.

2. NASW WI opposes the replacement of the current fair hearing process for grievances with an administrative procedure conducted by the W-2 agency or DILJD.

As the large number of successful fair hearing appeals in the Pay for Performance Program demonstrates, the fair hearing process is critical to protecting the rights of W-2 participants from errors made by workers. The fair hearing process is a long time federal requirement that will continue for grievances in the administration of the food stamp and medicaid programs and should continue with the administration of W-2. Finally it is imperative in any hearing process that the participants' benefits be maintained until a decision is made on the grievance.

3. NASW WI believes that the budget for W-2 should ensure that all who meet the eligibility requirements and follow the rules receive the services needed(employment programs, child care, health care and transportation).

Currently there is no provision that guarantees participation for all those who are eligible. No family should be denied service because the state fails to provide enough money, especially when economic times are not as good as the present. Families are required to hold up their side of the social contract and the state should be required to do the same.

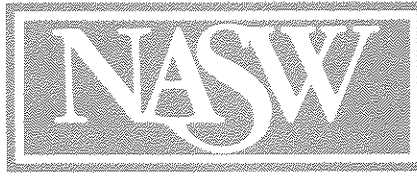
4. NASW WI believes that W-2 should provide at least the minimum wage rather than a grant for Community Service jobs and Transitional Placement activities to fulfill the work requirement.

In addition to being fair, the minimum wage for these job categories could make participants eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit(EITC), increasing their income. Since the EITC is available only to those who work, it is shortsighted to deny this extra income to working families at the lowest rung of the economic ladder, and also to deny the influx of some 92 million dollars* in these federal funds into the state. Finally the availability of EITC for all W-2 participating families will mitigate the sharp reduction in monthly revenue experienced by large families, including many Hmong families.

5. NASW WI believes that W-2 should permit education and training that develop job skills to fulfill the work requirement. NASW WI also believes that W-2 should allow the teen parents to qualify for W-2 by attending high school.

Numerous studies have shown that education increases an individual's earning power. If the goal of W-2 is to promote self-sufficiency among participants, surely education and training should be key components of such a program. In the absence of changes to W-2, it will be almost impossible for W-2 participants to get education and training, forcing them to stay in lower paying jobs. There would also be no incentive for teen parents to stay in school.

* Based on estimates provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to Senators Chvala, Moen and Moore in February 1996



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

CHILD WELFARE STANDARDS

The Child Welfare system in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee County, is failing in its mission to protect and provide permanency for children in need. In Milwaukee County, the out-of-home caseload grew from 1,220 children in 1986 to nearly 6,000 children in 1994, with costs of care increasing from \$3 M in 1986 to \$30 M in 1994. Child abuse and neglect referrals have doubled from 1986 to 1995, now averaging 900 a month, while funding statewide for child welfare services has decreased. Caseload size in Child Welfare services average five times the amount recommended by the Child Welfare League of America. There is no uniformity in hiring standards, resulting in many agencies hiring staff to perform social work functions who have no Social Work training. Lastly, minimal financial resources have been made available for preventative services, which are less costly to deliver and may often eliminate the need for more costly crisis and out-of-home care.

The delivery of Child Welfare services requires highly trained and skilled staff to sensitively make the difficult decisions required to protect children and families. Social Work is the only profession that offers training specifically for child welfare service delivery. Child Welfare training is funded by Social Security Act Title IV-E, and requires participation in an accredited Social Work program. The unique body of knowledge upon which the Social Work profession is based is recognized by numerous government and professional organizations as critical to the delivery of quality child welfare services. The social work profession provides the framework for meeting the challenge of effective assessment, treatment and prevention services necessary to alleviate the social, economic and personal conditions contributing to child abuse and neglect.

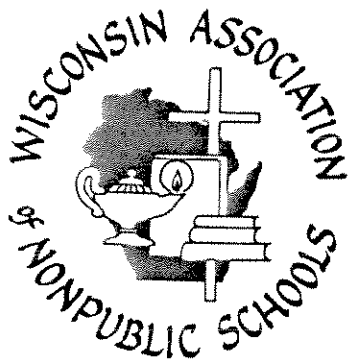
The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers makes the following recommendations to alleviate the current circumstances that has resulted in the failure of the current child welfare system in achieving its mission to protect and enhance the well-being of children.

- *Increase funding to levels that reflect the actual needs of the community, including bilingual, AODA, AODA, and special needs adoptions services.
- *An undergraduate or graduate social work degree should be required for the delivery and administration of social services in public child welfare to ensure that workers have the necessary skills, knowledge and values to provide high quality services.
- *Establish caseload sizes that meet nationally accepted standards of quality. Child Welfare League of America standards are as follows:
 - 12 active intake investigations per month per Social Worker
 - 17 active on-going families per Social Worker, and no more than 1 new case for each 6 open cases
 - 10 active ongoing cases and 4 active investigations per Social Worker
 - 1 Social Work Supervisor for each 5 Social Workers
 - 15 families per Social Worker in a family-centered casework delivery system
 - 2 to 6 families per Social Worker in intensive family-centered crisis services delivery system
 - 12 to 15 children per Social Worker in family foster care services
- *The agency providing the service should have a track record of successfully working collaboratively with a wide range of community services and programs, have mechanisms to allow for worker and client input, and be accountable for the quality and quantity of services provided.
- *The agency providing the service should have a strong affirmative action policy and a good record of hiring and retaining minority staff.

- *Comprehensive analysis regarding the privatization of child welfare services must occur, examining the efforts and experiences of other states, such as Hawaii, New York and Massachusetts, and developing appropriate standards for the private sector.
- *Salary levels should reflect education, training, skill, expertise and experience of the staff. A strong benefit package should be provided to recruit, train, and retain the highest qualified individuals. Benefits should include on-going professional development.
- *The agency should employ full-time rather than part-time staff, to reduce the incidence of staff turnover. A career ladder for experienced staff who dedicate themselves to continuing to work with children and families should be provided, and should include salary differentiation for BSW and MSW degrees and years of experience.

Prepared by Mary J. Glab, ACSW, CICSW, for testimony at the State Budget hearings.
April 16, 1997.

For more information, please contact: Marc Herstand, Executive Director
Wisconsin Chapter
National Association of Social Workers
14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 104
Madison, WI 53703
(608)-257-6334



WANS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Schools International
District IV

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Diocese of Green Bay

Diocese of LaCrosse

Diocese of Madison

Diocese of Superior

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Northern Wisconsin District

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Southern Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Association of
Independent Schools

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

TO: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: Sharon L. Schmeling, Executive Secretary
DATE: April 16, 1997

RE: educational technology provisions in the proposed 1997-99 State Budget

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the education-related provisions in the Governor's budget bill.

Gov. Tommy Thompson's proposed state budget includes \$200 million to accelerate the use of technology by schools and advance education into the 21st century by making investments in educational technology.

However, these efforts do not include providing technology to the 148,848 nonpublic school students enrolled in more than 900 nonpublic schools in Wisconsin. By omitting nonpublic school students, this "comprehensive" technology plan is overlooking 15 percent of the state's school children!

The Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools represents 75 percent of the state's nonpublic schools, enrolling 128,000 students in 700 school buildings.

It is simple justice to ensure that all of the state's school children have access to educational technologies. No program that ignores such a substantial percentage of the state's school children can be considered equitable.

On behalf of all of the state's nonpublic school children, our Association urges you to support the following changes to the budget:

1. Inclusion for nonpublic schools students in the educational technology access program that provides special, low rates for data and video links to schools. The Governor's budget bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish an educational telecommunications access program under which school districts are provided high speed data transfer lines or 2-way interactive video links for not more than \$250 per month per data line or video link. Any costs exceeding \$250 per month are paid from the universal service fund, which is funded by private telecommunication companies.

The language in the budget bill ought to be clarified to include nonpublic schools.

2. Inclusion in the program that allows schools to lease educational technology equipment with an option to buy. The Governor's budget bill permits school districts, CESAs and public educational institutions to lease educational technology equipment from the state with an option to purchase the equipment. This equipment would be leased through the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board).

The language and intent of the budget bill ought to be changed to clarify that nonpublic educational institutions are allowed to participate.

--OVER--

3. Nonpublic school representation on the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board). This Board is appointed by the Governor and oversees the implementation of the state's educational technology initiatives.

A representative from nonpublic k-12 schools must be appointed to the Board to ensure equitable participation for nonpublic school students.

The state's role in facilitating nonpublic school students access to technology is no different than building a public road to the door of a nonpublic school house. It is no different than bringing public water and sewer lines to the walls of the nonpublic school or ensuring that private companies bring telephone lines to the nonpublic school.

In addition, it is cost effective to include nonpublic school children at the outset of any state-sponsored technology initiatives.

The vast majority of nonpublic school children attend kindergarten through 8th grade and go on to public high schools. (Of the state's 148,848 nonpublic school children, only 24,088 attend nonpublic high schools in the 1995-96 school year. The remaining 124,760 nonpublic school children attend elementary schools and graduated on to public high schools.)

If students in nonpublic schools are not given comparable access to educational technologies, they will be ill-prepared and will need remedial education when they arrive at the state's public schools. Such education is expensive and will be a burden on the already tightly controlled public school budgets.

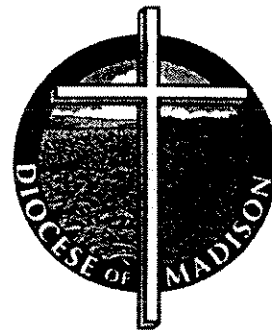
Furthermore, the inclusion we seek is consistent with recommendations to the state Legislature by the Public Service Commission. In its January 1996 report to the Joint Committee on Information Policy, the Public Service Commission pointed out, correctly, that most private schools are too scattered to make their own cooperative efforts cost effective in the area of technology.

The Commission also correctly noted that nonpublic schools lack access to funding and resources needed to finance educational technologies.

As a result of these realities, the Commission recommended that "government agencies make an effort to remove barriers that make it difficult to share telecommunications networks between public and nonpublic schools, and nonpublic schools should be included in the planning process."

We urge you to find a way to amend the proposed state budget to provide access for ALL of the state's school children.

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
142 West Johnson Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2298
(608) 256-0872 • FAX (608) 255-1882



MEMO

To: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
From: Jim Silver, Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Diocese of Madison
Subject: Educational Technology Provisions of the State Budget Bill
Date: April 16, 1997

I am Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Madison and Treasurer of the Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools, an organization representing most of the 148,000 children enrolled in Wisconsin's nonpublic schools. Approximately 15% of all students attending kindergarten through high school in our state attend nonpublic schools.

I would like to share with you some suggestions I have for improving the educational technology initiatives in the proposed state budget.

The budget proposes some changes in the current Universal Service Fund which provides funding for public and nonpublic schools for educational technology. The 1997-1999 budget proposal lacks clarity about the continued inclusion of nonpublic school students in this fund.

The legislation and administrative rules that established the Universal Service Fund and govern its operation clearly include all nonpublic schools. In fact, a number of nonpublic schools in the state have benefitted from grants received through this fund. I am concerned that the language of the budget bill which refers to the use of funds to assure affordable rates for telecommunications for schools does not specifically mention nonpublic or not-for-profit schools. The language of the bill in its references to schools and school districts should be amended to make it clear that nonpublic school students will continue to have access to affordable telecommunications services. Such a change in language will be helpful in providing assurances that nonpublic schools continue to receive equitable access to the Universal Service Fund.

Specifically, I request that the budget bill be amended to ensure there is no misunderstanding that the legislature intends to continue its efforts to see that all children attending school in Wisconsin receive affordable access to telecommunications services. There are three provisions of the budget that could be changed to bring about this assurance.

First, the provision that requires the Public Service Commission to establish an educational telecommunications access program to provide high speed data or video links for not more than \$250 per month, should clearly include nonpublic schools.

Secondly, the proposed program to permit public schools to lease educational technology equipment from the state with an option to purchase should also be amended to include participation by nonpublic schools.

Finally, it would be most helpful to include nonpublic school representation on the Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board. Inclusion of a nonpublic school representative on this board would give a voice to that 15% of the school-age population attending nonpublic schools in the state's efforts to implement educational technology initiatives.

We all know how vital and indispensable access to excellent telecommunications services has become as a resource with much potential to help improve the quality of education provided to our children. Those of us who work in nonpublic schools well understand the importance of affordable telecommunications access for our children. I am gratified to see that the governor and legislators continue to show evidence that you support efforts to ensure access to advanced educational telecommunications technologies. Making the few changes and adjustments we are suggesting will help to extend this commitment to all of our state's children.

Thank you for considering this request.

FUND THE COMMUNITY PROMISE!

Governor Thompson's proposed state budget continues the institutional bias and does little to Keep the Community Promise. He proposes a \$132 million increase for nursing homes, but only \$5 million for COP, and he shortchanges the programs listed below.

The \$132 million *increase* is bigger than the entire annual \$119 million *budget* for COP and COP Waiver! This is in spite of the fact that the number of people in nursing homes funded by Title 19 is expected to *decrease*. \$132 million would allow 13,000 more people to be served by COP/COP Waiver! And there are 8900 people on COP waiting lists statewide.

ONCE AGAIN- IT IS UP TO EACH OF US TO EDUCATE LEGISLATORS

THIS IS NOT ABOUT MONEY - IT'S ABOUT HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY

IT'S ABOUT YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS

IT'S ABOUT FAIRNESS AND FUNDING THE COMMUNITY PROMISE!

- **Community Options Program** Governor's proposal: 400 slots a year.
Fairness Amendment: Eliminate the 8900 person statewide COP waiting list and restore the transfer of leftover nursing home funds (REINSTATE ACT 469).
- **Community Caps** Governors proposal: repeal the caps
Fairness Amendment: Support the Governors proposal
- **Community Aids** Governor's proposal: \$7.3 million cut to the basic county allocation.
Fairness Amendment: Restore the overall basic county allocation to 1995 levels; restore the GPR portion of Community Aids to 1995 levels; add additional line item for wage initiative with allocation of \$1 million in year 1, and \$2 million in year 2
- **Medical Assistance (Title 19) Co-Payments** Governor's proposal: Increase all co-pays to federal allowable maximums.
Fairness Amendment: No new co-payments or increases.
- **Specialized Transportation** Governor's proposal: \$600,000 increase for elders and people with disabilities, \$12 million to the Brewers to move a highway.
Fairness Amendment: \$2-3 million increase (\$1 million increase for specialized transportation for every penny increase in gas tax)

- **Independent Living Centers** Governor's proposal: No increase.
Fairness Amendment: Increase ILC's base funding by \$75,000/year (total cost for 8 centers= \$600,000 per year)
- **Non-Institutional Medical Assistance Providers (such as Home Health Agencies)** Governor's proposal: 1% increase.
Fairness Amendment: 3% increases.
- **Nursing Home Bed Banking** Governor's proposal: Allow nursing homes to "bank" (temporarily delicense) beds in order to obtain a higher reimbursement under MA.
Fairness Amendment: Remove the Bed Banking provision, leave in place the current incentive for nursing homes to close empty beds and allow counties to convert funding into CIP II funds.
- **SSI and AFDC** Governor's proposal: Eliminate the AFDC payments to 1500 families headed by a parent with a disability on SSI, and replace them with a \$77 per child monthly payment to the parent - this represents a 65% loss of income to an average family.
Fairness amendment: Provide a state supplement equal to amount family received from AFDC or kinship care level of \$215 per child per month.
- **Long-Term Care Redesign and behavioral Health Pilot Programs** Governor's proposal: Zero funding.
Fairness Amendment: Fund the pilots as recommended by the Department of Health and Family Services.
- **Elder Rights Package** Governor's proposal: Zero increases to Benefit Specialist, elder abuse or Ombudsman programs.
Fairness Amendment: Expand all these programs including funds for the Volunteer Ombudsman program.
- **Family Support and Birth to Three** Governor's proposal: Zero increases.
Fairness Amendment: Family Support: \$4 million to eliminate the 1852-family waiting list. Birth to Three: Provide additional \$250,000 in FY98 and \$750,000 in FY 99 for emergency fund to distribute to counties as needed to maintain services.
- **CIP 1B Rate** Governor's proposal: No rate increase.
Fairness Amendment: Increase rates for new slots from \$48.33 to \$75.00; 300 additional slots in FY98 and 200 slots in FY99.

- **Education of Children with Special Needs** Governor's proposal : freeze categorical aids for Handicapped Education which will result in a drop in reimbursement of costs incurred by school districts below 39%.
- **Fairness Amendment:** Increase Categorical Aids so that reimbursements to school districts do not drop below 39%.
- **Right to Refuse Treatment** Governor's proposal: Restrict the rights of competent adults who refuse certain treatment while committed to psychiatric facilities, and authorize the creation of non-treatment facilities.
Fairness amendment: Take this policy issue out of the state budget.

April 15, 1997

Members of the Joint Finance Committee
137 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI. 53702

Re: Testimony in Support of Governor Thompson's Environmental Initiatives

I would like to testify in support of the environmental initiatives in this budget. The proposed Safe Drinking Water Program, the Environmental Performance Agreements, and the Brownfields Land Recycling Program represent a promising approach to solving environmental problems. I believe that the net benefit of adding new environmental regulation to old is currently at the point of diminished returns. At some point, forcing ever more stringent levels of inflexible environmental regulation results in net social costs rather than benefits.

The environmental programs in this budget recognize that incentives must be provided in order to translate environmental goals into desired actions.

For example, the Brownfield Development initiative creates incentives through both financial and technical resources to "recycle" contaminated land. The goal of this program is to achieve closure of contaminated sites so that contaminated land may be returned to productive use.

Most Wisconsin brownfields are not large properties. The stereotypic brownfield is the abandoned gas station with leaking underground tanks. Often the property is in default or tax delinquency. This reality contrasts with the well-published Quad Graphic brownfield success story and the tannery land issue in Milwaukee.

Prior to this Brownfield initiative, the incentive to remediate and recycle these small sites was low. The estimated 8,000 abandoned contaminated properties in Wisconsin is evidence of this fact. Furthermore, the cost of forcing responsible parties to remediate the site was often high, with considerable resources devoted to legal and enforcement action instead of cleanup action.

This budget proposes to create incentives for recycling brownfields through providing:
\$20 million in segregated funds to Dept. of Commerce for grants to municipalities, nonprofit corporations and the private sector for assessment and remediation of contaminated properties.

Expansion of the DOC's permit information center into a one-stop Business Development Assistance Center to coordinate redevelopment assistance efforts and serve as ombudsman for contaminated land redevelopment.

\$4 million to WHEDA's Development Reserve Fund that will act to leverage private bank loans up to \$500,000 for land redevelopment through guarantees. Provide funding to the DNR to support redevelopment assistance, site assessment and GIS system development associated with land redevelopment.

Waive liability laws to protect purchasers from future changes in environmental standards, if the cleanup action fails, and if additional contamination is found on the site which occurred prior to the purchase of the property.

Increase tax credits from 7.5% to 50% for site cleanup and remediation expenses.

These financial incentives coupled with a flexible regulatory response should create sufficient incentive for small and medium size business to undertake contaminated site closure. Benefits of this elective program include first and foremost, achieving closure on the abandoned and contaminated properties in Wisconsin, a more efficient expenditure of public dollars (paying for cleanup instead of legal fees), and potentially providing low cost property for small business expansion and business start-ups in high cost urban areas.

The brownfield issue is a land value issue, as well as environmental one. In Wisconsin, the cost of cleanup is often greater than the price of uncontaminated property. I believe the Governor's brownfield initiative addresses this differential and will benefit both the environment and small businesses of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Van Abel", written in a cursive style.

Robert J. Van Abel

P.O. Box 306

Endeavor, WI 53930

**Testimony before the Joint Committee on Finance
Madison, Wisconsin**

April 16, 1997

Submitted by

Madison Area Technical College

**Kevin Myren, Financial Administrator
Jane Pawasarat, Executive Assistant to the President**

Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Finance
April 16, 1997

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee and provide comment on components of the budget bill that have significant impact on the vitality of the Wisconsin Technical College System and in particular on Madison Area Technical College. I am Jane Pawasarat, Executive Assistant to the President of MATC and with me is Kevin Myren, MATC's Financial Administrator. This morning we would like to comment briefly on the general state aid, educational technology, and the Youth Options Program proposals.

1. General State Aid. The Budget Bill proposes a 1% increase annually in general state aid for the Wisconsin Technical College System. The WTCS Board requested a 4.5% increase annually so that technical colleges would be able to respond to inflationary increases on operational costs, maintain existing services, and hold property tax levies stable. While we appreciate the constraints of funding existing commitments and submitting a balanced budget during this biennium, we must urge you to consider increasing the WTCS general state aid above 1%.

As you know, the WTCS received no increase in state aid during the last biennium. MATC responded to this level funding by closely examining current budgets, making modifications wherever possible to further increase efficiencies, seeking out and obtaining alternative sources of program funding (e.g. National Science Foundation grants), and reallocating existing resources. These measures were necessary just to maintain our current level of program offerings and services. We were unable to enhance our offerings or significantly modify programs.

In the year 2000 it is estimated that only 15% of all jobs will be unskilled. It is projected that just 20% of all jobs will require a bachelor's degree or higher. But, the vast majority--65% of all jobs--will require more than a high school education but less than a bachelor's degree. In a recent Madison Gas and Electric Survey of Dane County Manufacturers, 71% of respondents report difficulty filling vacant positions for skilled and semi-skilled workers. This figure rises to 94% for firms in the Industrial, Commercial Machinery and Computer Equipment industries. These demands will place increasing pressure on Wisconsin technical colleges to provide business and industry with an adequate labor force.

At a time when our state dollars have been declining, we have continued to help tackle illiteracy, to provide technical assistance and training to business and industry, to find new opportunities through education for displaced homemakers, to promote and train nontraditional workers and W-2 clients, and to develop changing technologies and programs that are reflective of the changing workforce needs of Wisconsin. We have tried to be responsive to these demands even though we have fewer real state dollars. Over the past 20 years, the state's participation in funding the Technical College System has decreased from 36% to 25% of aidable cost. Without additional state aid our ability to respond and adapt to the needs of our students and to business and industry will be severely hampered, and the burden for financing education will increasingly fall on the students and property taxpayers.

MATC continues to operate in a fiscally prudent manner. Even though we are one of the most cost-effective districts in the state, with the third lowest cost per full-time equivalent student, there are cost increases that are beyond our control and substantial above the rate of inflation. For example, due to the rise in paper costs this year, there was a 44% increase in the cost of printing materials for use by students. There will be increasing pressure on our property tax, if we are faced with 1% increases in general aids in 1997-99.

The Wisconsin Technical College System is important to the economic vitality of our state and that is why it is so important to continue to provide progressively positive funding to the system. Additional state aids would provide MATC with the resources to expand needed programs and services. For example, there is a critical shortage of persons who know both technology and good education practice. Additional state aids could fund program development for an Educational Media Technician associate degree program. This program would provide the state with a cadre of technicians who can work with teachers as they use the latest technology to improve student learning.

We need you to make a commitment to your constituents and to the significant role played by the Wisconsin Technical College System. The WTCS is a vital force in Wisconsin's economy. Please provide us with the state dollars needed to meet the needs of employers, the emerging workforce and your constituents.

2. Educational Technology. MATC supports the budget proposal of \$832,000 in GPR funding to support faculty development in the use of technology through the establishment of Teacher Innovation Centers.

We recognize that technology is transforming the American workforce and that MATC along with the other Wisconsin technical colleges must continue to play a vital role in providing technical training to meet workforce needs. Workers in the trades--from machinists to welders to auto mechanics--all use sophisticated computer-controlled production or diagnostic equipment. All these jobs require computer literacy.

Similarly, MATC recognizes the need for our faculty to be technologically literate so that they are able to integrate emerging technologies into technical college curriculum and instructional delivery. The MATC district board made a significant commitment to educational technology with the approval and funding of a distance education plan. This capital investment supports the development of the JEDI (Jefferson/Dane County Interactive) and the SCING distance education Networks (South Central Instructional Network Group). Recognizing that this capital investment will pay large dividends only if it is coupled with related training for faculty and staff, MATC has also intensified investments in developing faculty capabilities in the use of this new technology. For example, MATC initiated a Technology Academy which is designed to assist faculty with integrating technology as a tool within all areas of instruction. Also, MATC will shortly begin offering the entire suite of training programs from Computer Based Training (CBT), a premier international developer of workforce training materials in the CD-Rom format. With over 150 individual training modules, these materials will enhance a wide range of programs and courses in addition to being available for in-plant use.

MATC and the other technical colleges are making great strides in the area of educational technology. Teacher Innovation Centers will ensure that expertise that gained locally is shared with colleagues statewide. All faculty and staff should have the opportunity to improve their skills in the use and application of new learning and telecommunications technologies. In turn, our students will be better prepared and able to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive and technological marketplace.

3. Youth Options. The final proposal that we would like to comment on and urge you to support is the Youth Options Program. This program would expand the opportunities currently available to high school age students who wish to enroll in WTCS courses. The Youth Options program would allow academically qualified students to attend technical college, on a full or part-time basis, in the 11th or 12th grade. Technical college courses would satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma which would be issued by the school district. The program would be voluntary and the decision to participate would be made solely by the students and their parents. We support this budget proposal as a option for those students who are prepared for college-level work and seek a challenging educational alternative. Those who decide to pursue technical college education after obtaining their high school diploma will have made progress towards obtaining a technical college degree or diploma. Also, increased early exposure to technical training which can be applied to the workplace, will better prepare students for the jobs of the future, and result in a stronger, more capable workforce.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony. Please make the Wisconsin Technical College System a top priority during the 1997-99 biennium.



Cambridge High School FHA-HERO

April 15, 1997

Jacob A. Wicke
District 9 Vice President - Wisconsin FHA-HERO
W9685 E. Main Street
Cambridge, WI 53523

Phone (608) 764-5680
E-mail jaw@smallbytes.net

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

My name is Jacob Wicke, and I am currently serving as District 9 Vice President for the State Vocational Student Organization of Future Homemakers of America. I am here today to speak to you today about my concerns I have as a student regarding the transfer of School to Work operations from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Workforce development. I believe that this transfer would limit the integration of career skills into current classes, and limit the involvement of Vocational Student Organizations, such as FHA, in School to Work programs.

I will start off today with a brief example. You all have worked on a team, right? Well, just for right now, imagine that you are all part of a team set out to reach an important goal. But, half of you work for Interest A, and the other half works for Interest B. Who would lead your team, someone from Interest A, or someone from Interest B? Who would fund your team, Interest A, or Interest B? Who would regulate your team? Interest A or Interest B? And would the regulations clash? These are all questions that could arise in such a situation. Now, how does this example relate to the moving of School to Work to the Department of Workforce Development?

At first this change may seem like it is consolidating a service into a similar department. This is not true. The separation of School to Work from The Department of Public Instruction will limit the ability of specialists for every school subject, such as Family and Consumer Education, Mathematics, and Science, to work together with specialists on Career Skills. This will make it harder for teachers in our schools to integrate career skills into their curriculums in order to prepare students to become part of the workforce.

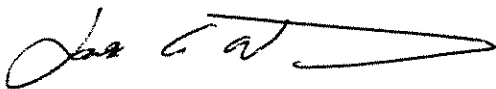
And this integration is greatly needed in our schools. Do you think that math has a greater impact on students if it is taught alone in a single class, or if a family and consumer education teacher integrates math skills into his or her classes by having

students making half-batches of cookies. Do computer skills have a greater impact when taught alone, or integrated into a science class, when a teacher shows students how to chart and compare experiment data in a spreadsheet. Without this integration, career skills could not be taught as effectively in classes.

Vocational Student organizations, such as FHA, are also important keys in career development. Through FHA-HERO I have learned organization, speaking skills, teamwork skills, and leadership skills. These skills are invaluable to me in my current job, and will be important in helping me when I move into my career. FHA also includes a component that is called HERO, or home Economics Related Occupations. Members of HERO learn career skills necessary in pursuing a career in hospitality, and food service. One class currently offered in our school is the HERO co-op. In this class, students learn job skills during school, and receive school release time to go to work. But these vocational student organizations are all run through the Department of Public Instruction. If School to Work was moved to the Department of Workforce Development, the connections between school to work programs and these organizations may be lost.

Today I have told you how the disconnection of School to Work from the Department of Public Instruction would hinder the integration of career skills into school classes, and how this proposal would also make Vocational Student Organizations less involved with preparing students for the workforce. All in all, I disagree with the proposal to move School to Work from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Workforce Development, and believe that it is not the right choice to make on the future of the education of myself and other students.

Thank You



Jacob A. Wicke

P.S. Sorry I could not speak. Please be sure to contact me if you would like any more information.

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM FUNDING

Wisconsin Biennial Budget Request 1997-1999

Accessible Crisis Services in Every County for Every Victim

Continuous services include advocacy, counseling (including support groups), transportation as needed, referral, follow-up, outreach and community education. The program must provide twenty-four hour crisis call coverage and have on-site services at the designated location at least forty hours per week. Primary administrative support should be, when possible, in existing domestic abuse programs.

The Governor has proposed spending available domestic abuse assessment revenue to fund eight new programs of this type. Federal funding through the Violence Against Women Act will fund three new programs. **The following funding must be available to assure services are available in the remaining counties and tribes:**

28 programs @ \$30,000 = \$ 840,000

Programs for Under-Served Populations

Wisconsin is home to populations of victims of domestic abuse and their children who, because of race, language barriers, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, culture and/or geographic location, have not had access to domestic abuse services. To begin to remedy this situation, the state must fund at least two local programs designed by and for under-served populations. A half-time staff person would be available to provide basic crisis services and advocacy.

2 programs @ \$39,000 = \$ 78,000

Various under-served populations reside in small clusters throughout Wisconsin. To serve this group efficiently and effectively, a comprehensive statewide approach must be taken. It is proposed that the state fund:

1 statewide program @\$100,000 = \$100,000

Children's Services

Currently, the state provides no funding for specialized services for children except \$145,000 earmarked for special demonstration projects. Services for children from violent homes must include assessments, orientation, individual counseling, age appropriate education (including dating violence), referral, follow up, support groups, safety planning and community education and outreach. The state funding necessary to achieve this goal is:

48 programs @ \$30,000 = \$1,440,000
8 programs @ 12,000 = 96,000*

*Eight domestic abuse programs receive approximately \$18,000 each to provide children's services. An additional \$95,000 is needed to bring these programs up to the standard level of funding.

Summary

28 non-shelter crisis service programs @	\$ 30,000 =	\$ 840,000
2 programs serving under-served populations @	39,000 =	78,000
1 statewide program for under-served populations @	100,000 =	100,000
48 programs @	30,000 =	1,440,000
8 programs @	12,000 =	96,000

Total annual funding needed

\$2,554,000

Total Biennial Budget Request

\$3,831,000

Counties Currently Without Continuous Programs

Adams	Florence	Marquette	Trempeleau
Barron	Forest	Monroe	Vilas
Bayfield	Green Lake	Oconto	Washburn
Buffalo	Iowa	Pepin	Waupaca
Burnett	Jackson	Price	Waushara
Calumet	Jefferson	Sawyer	
Clark	Juneau	Shawano	
Crawford	Lafayette	St. Croix	

Milwaukee has been added as a county in need of an additional non-residential program. Currently, three state funded domestic abuse programs are located in Milwaukee to serve potentially approximately 96,000 battered women. Additionally, one program without any state funding serves battered women, children and men.

Tribes Currently Without Continuous Programs

Bad River	Sokaogan
Ho-Chunk	Stockbridge-Munsee
Lac Courte Orielles	
Potawatomi	
Red Cliff	
St. Croix	

FACTS ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

- The risk of child abuse is significantly higher when partner assault is also reported (Hotaling, Straus and Lincoln, 1989).
- The range of problems among children who witness parental violence includes psychosomatic disorders, such as stuttering, anxiety, fear, sleep disruption and school problems (Hilberman and Munson 1977-78).
- Children in homes where domestic violence occurs are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate of 1500% higher than the national average in the general population. (A Guide for Health Care Professionals, NJ:March, 1990)
- Young women between the ages of fourteen and seventeen represent an estimated 38% of those victimized by date rape. (Warshaw, 1988)
- Abused children are arrested by the police four times more often than non-abused children. (Gelles and Straus, 1988).
- Sixty three percent of youthful offenders who commit murder do so to kill the abusers of their mothers. (Senate Committee on the Judiciary Reports, 1990)

IN WISCONSIN:

- Children who accompany their mothers represent 57% of domestic abuse service recipients.
- Less than 3% of domestic abuse funding is earmarked for children's services.
- Seventy five percent of all sexual assault victims were juveniles. More than 68% of all victims were fifteen years old or younger. (1995 Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Report, 1995)
- Children's services housed in domestic abuse programs have a role to play in decreasing the inter-generational transmission of domestic violence.

FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC ABUSE IN WISCONSIN

DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently, thirty (30) counties and eight (8) tribes have no continuous domestic abuse crisis services. In addition, Milwaukee is a severely under-funded county. Three state funded and one non state funded domestic abuse service providers render assistance to the entire Milwaukee community.
- Potentially, more than 166,000 battered women have no access to continuous services available in their communities.
- The state has not provided an increase in funding from general purpose revenue for domestic abuse services in four years.
- Funding domestic abuse services is an investment with a return. For every dollar provided by the state, communities contribute two dollars in funding for services.
- Domestic abuse programs utilize volunteers to remain cost effective. In 1995, more than 3,400 volunteers contributed more than 245,000 hours of service to victims and their children. At \$6 per hour, they donated \$1,470,000 of in-kind services.

WHY ARE ADEQUATE BASIC SERVICES NECESSARY IN EVERY COUNTY?

- The risk of assault is greatest when a woman leaves or threatens to leave an abusive relationship, (Browne, 1987).
- In 1995, one out of every five homicides was domestic related.
- The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse related crime has increased steadily since 1990. In 1995 alone, almost 33,000 incidents were reported to law enforcement.
- In 1995, domestic abuse programs turned away 23% of victims requesting shelter because of lack of space. This number could be reduced if basic services were available in every county.
- Crisis calls to domestic abuse service providers have increased 35% in 1995 over 1994.
- Requests for transportation increased 24% in 1995.

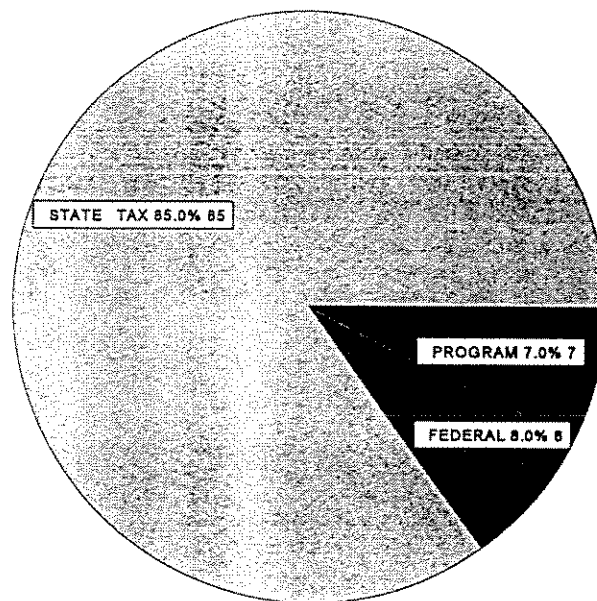
THE CURRENT DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM CANNOT ACCOMMODATE THIS KIND OF INCREASE IN NEED.

OVER

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE FUNDING:

In 1995, the state of Wisconsin distributed **\$4,166,000** for services to victims of domestic violence and their children. That amounts to **\$8.90 per victim** if all victims requested services.

Approximately 85% came from the state general purpose revenue. Eight percent (8%) came from the federal Family Violence Prevention and Service Act and the remainder from perpetrator assessments made upon criminal conviction.



DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Domestic abuse shelters provide food, some clothing, transportation to and from school for children, individual and support group counseling and systems advocacy. The average length of stay per family in a domestic abuse shelter is 14.1 days.

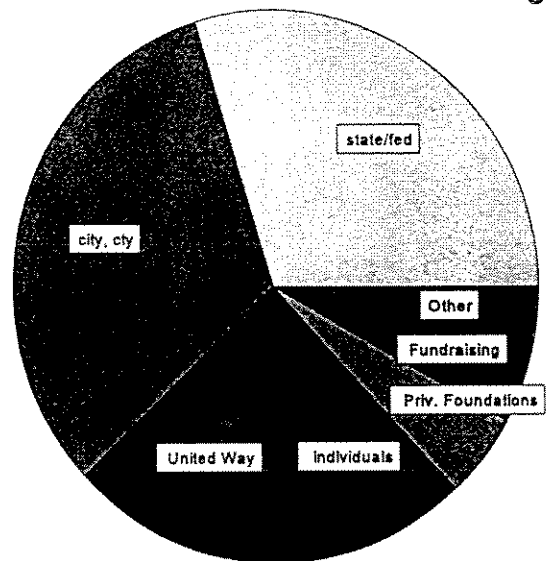
Both non residential and shelter programs provide crisis phone coverage twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, face to face counseling, legal advocacy and court accompaniment for thousands of victims who choose not to reside in shelter. Many families utilize services more than once a year.

When funding allows, programs provide economic advocacy and long term support and guidance to women and their children who attempt to leave the violent relationship.

Community education and public awareness campaigns function in all programs.

Local Domestic Abuse Funding

State w/fed	30%
City/Cty	32%
Individuals	11%
Private Found.	5%
Fundraising	5%
United Way	4%
Other	3%



In 1995, 3,422 volunteers contributed 245,268 hours of service to victims of domestic violence and their children.

4/16/97

Dear Joint Finance Committee,

We are here today to urge the Joint Finance Committee to include the 105% flexibility in the budget.

We would like to start out by thanking the Governor for proposing a student-friendly budget and encourage the Joint Finance Committee to also keep in mind the importance of a quality education during the biennial budget process.

The 105% flexibility, which supports the "Differential Tuition Initiative" and other flexibilities is a necessary tool needed to continue the quality instruction provided by the University of Wisconsin System.

Over the past couple decades, state support of the UW-System has declined immensely. This decline in state support along with increasing costs has decreased the quality of instruction that the UW-System could offer.

There is opposition to this flexibility by people who say that the responsibility of funding the UW-System would be shifted from the state to the students. I understand that the ideal situation would be to increase the state's contribution, but I do not see this happening any time soon. In the mean time, I do not want to see the quality of my instruction decreasing each year.

Revenue flexibility is the next best thing that would benefit students. Each year our tuition goes up, but we see very few, if any, increased benefits on campus. The revenue generated would stay on campus.

The revenue raised on our campus would be spent to enhance: classroom projects, laboratories, work experiences, and access to our laboratories and our library.

Recent budget cuts and the increased minimum wage rates have resulted in less technical support and maintenance for Stout's laboratories. As a result, our laboratories and library have had to close earlier.

Revenue flexibility would provide funding for additional technicians to staff our laboratories, assist faculty with course material preparation, assist students with writing projects and also keep the equipment functioning. Our library and laboratories would be able to stay open longer. This is very important considering many students are forced to work during the school year and can not go to the library or laboratories during the day. I know what it is like to walk to a laboratory at night and find out that it is closed. I have had many instances when the laboratories have been closed and I have not been able to complete my assignments. This initiative could provide funding to keep the library and laboratories open longer. It also could provide additional jobs for students.

The University of Wisconsin - Stout believes strongly in learning through involvement. Our classroom environment involves small group activities, team projects, one-on-one monitoring, and community-based service projects. However, recent budget cuts have resulted in a restructuring of teaching assignments with faculty teaching larger classes. As a result of larger classes, there is less time spent with individual students, fewer writing assignments, and fewer team projects. Differential Tuition could provide funds for additional teaching assistants and graduate assistants.

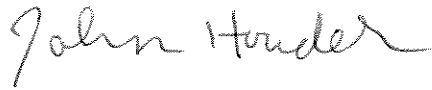
Revenue flexibility could also be used to help give the faculty in the UW-System their much deserved raise. Even though my tuition would increase, I support giving the faculty a raise. I want quality faculty giving me instruction. If the faculty do not receive a salary increase, I fear that some may leave the UW System and go to higher paying institutions.

The 105% flexibility needs to be included in the budget, or we can not have Differential Tuition or other flexibilities on our campus. I urge you to include the 105% flexibility in the final budget.

I would also like to ask that the WHEG grant program be increased at the same rate as tuition. Over one in six students on my campus receive this grant.

We would like to once again thank the Governor for his proposed budget and ask that education remains a priority in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time.



John Houdek
Director of Legislative Affairs
Stout Student Association
University of Wisconsin-Stout



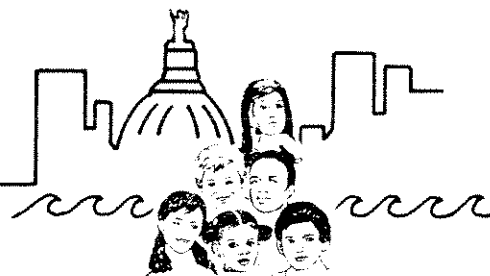
Sara Rasque
Student Senator
Stout Student Association
University of Wisconsin-Stout

Madison Metropolitan School District

Cheryl H. Wilhoyte, Ph.D., Superintendent

MILTON MCPIKE, Principal
VERA RILEY, Assistant Principal
LARRY SANDOR, Assistant Principal
LOUIS SWEDARSKY, Assistant Principal
LEE THOMAS, Assistant Principal

MADISON EAST HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



2222 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53704-5295
TELEPHONE: 246-4400
FAX: 246-4888

TO: Members of the Joint Committee of Finance

RE: Senate Bill 77/Assembly Bill 100 -- Governor's executive budget bill

From: Priscilla S. Bondhus *PSB*

While I agree conceptually with the importance of education for employment and the school to work initiative, I am concerned about possible consequences that would occur with the transfer of power and fiscal control to the new department of work force development. Some concerns are:

1. Would the new department be approachable and user friendly? The present support my programs have received from the D.P.I. have been excellent.

2. The learning experiences the vocational student organizations provide students affords a breadth and depth in their development that transcends far beyond the focus of work only. When you split these students into different facilities, how would these different opportunities be provided. Who would provide the leadership for these learning experiences.

3. What would be the financial consequences relating to good programs that are in place? Example: A nursing assistant program is being piloted for the Madison Metropolitan School District as East High School. While major donations to establish the program came from the health care industry, school to work funds complemented the donations in establishing the program. We will be pinning the second Nursing Assistant Class this spring and I am proud to say that the model set for the program is economical. The additional cost to the district is less than \$100.00 dollars per student to prepare them for becoming a registered nursing assistant. This cost is supported by out of district funding. This program has been the focus of both national and state recognition.

4. Do we need another layer of bureaucracy?

I have listed a few concerns related to the proposed changes. As a vocational educator, I can assure you that there are more. Yes, school to work and education for employment are most important but let's not throw the baby out with the bath water.